

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- C1
1. (Currently Amended) A method of searching for data in heterogeneous data sources with a computer system, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:
 - receiving a request for data at a given federated data source; and
 - from the given federated data source, retrieving data from a plurality of datastores, including:
 - data from one or more terminal data repositories,
 - data, with a schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view of the data, from one or more other federated data sources, and
 - data, without a schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view of the data, from one or more search gateway data sources;
 - the given federated data source providing a unified schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view of: (a) the data from the plurality of datastores, (b) the data from the terminal data repositories, and (c) the data and schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view from the other federated data sources.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each search gateway data source searches for data in one or more other data sources.

3. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein each federated data source, each terminal data repository, and each search gateway data source is represented by a data object.

4. (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein each data object is based on a class that inherits the properties of a base datastore class.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein each data object is manipulated via methods of the class on which the data object is based.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving data from one or more search gateway data sources comprises submitting a search gateway query from the given federated data source to each search gateway data source.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each terminal data repository and each search gateway data source may be queried for data directly.

C) 8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources, comprising:

a computer system accessing said one or more heterogeneous data sources; and

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer system, for:

receiving a request for data at a given federated data source; and

from the given federated data source, retrieving data from a plurality of datastores, including:

data from one or more terminal data repositories,

data, with a schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view of the data, from one or more other federated data sources, and

data, without a schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view of the data, from one or more search gateway data sources;

the given federated data source providing a unified schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view of: (a) the data from the plurality of datastores, (b) the data from the terminal data repositories, and (c) the data and schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view from the other federated data sources

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each search gateway data source searches for data in one or more other data sources.

C/ 10. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each federated data source, each terminal data repository, and each search gateway data source is a data object.

11. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each data object is based on a class that inherits the properties of a base datastore class.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein each data object is manipulated via methods of the class on which the object data is based.

13. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein retrieving data from one or more search gateway data sources comprises submitting a search gateway query from the given federated data source to each search gateway data source.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each terminal data repository and each search gateway data source may be queried for data directly.

15. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources within a computer system, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving a request for data at a given federated data source; and

C1 from the given federated data source, retrieving data from a plurality of datastores,
including:

data from one or more terminal data repositories,

data, with a schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view of the data, from one or more
other federated data sources, and

data, without a schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view of the data, from one or
more search gateway data sources;

the given federated data source providing a unified schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view
of: (a) the data from the plurality of datastores, (b) the data from the terminal data repositories,
and (c) the data and schema ~~structural~~ conceptual view from the other federated data sources

16. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein each search gateway
data source searches for data in one or more other data sources.

17. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the
federated data source, each terminal data repository, and each search gateway data source is
represented by a data object.

18. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein each data
object is based on a class that inherits the properties of a base datastore class.

c1 19. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein each data object is manipulated via methods of the class on which the data object is based.

20. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein retrieving data from one or more search gateway data sources comprises submitting a search gateway query from the given federated data source to each search gateway data source.

21. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein each terminal data repository and each search gateway data source may be queried for data directly.
